

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 1-7, 9-14, 16-22, 24-30, and 32 are pending in the application, and the Examiner rejected all claims. By this Amendment, claims 12, 24, and 32 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 9-11, 13, 16-17, and 25 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-14, 16-22, and 25-30 remain pending and under consideration. No new matter has been presented. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below, and reconsideration of all rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §112

In item 4 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9-14, 16-22, 25-30, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

By this Amendment, claims 12 and 32 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and independent claims 1, 13, 16-17, and 25 have been amended and no longer include the language in the form rejected by the Examiner. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the Examiner's §112, first paragraph rejections of claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-14, 16-22, and 25-30.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103

In item 7 on pages 3-11 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 7-11, 13, 17, 18, 21, 25, 26, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter referred to as "AAPA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,947,415, issued to Nagaraj (hereinafter referred to as "Nagaraj") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,505,245, issued to North et al. (hereinafter referred to as "North"). In item 21 on pages 12 and 13 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA, Nagaraj, and North in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0002492, issued to Gallagher (hereinafter referred to as "Gallagher"). In item 23 on pages 13-18 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 3, 4, 6, 12, 14, 16, 19, 20, 22, 24, 27, 28, 30, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA, Nagaraj, and North in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,917,626, issued to Duvvury (hereinafter referred to as "Duvvury"). By this Amendment, claims 12, 24, and 32 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections of the remaining claims.

Claim 1 of the present application, as amended, recites a first tuning button that exchanges first information relating to hardware ports included in the console switch with another console switch connected to the network, the other console switch having a second tuning button that exchanges second information relating to hardware ports included in the other console switch with the console switch; wherein when the first tuning button and the second tuning button are engaged, the first information and the second information are interactively exchanged between the console switch and the other console switch. The Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references discloses at least these features of claim 1.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, Duvvury discloses learning a MAC address and storing the address in a memory (Column 4, Lines 11-15), and polling devices on the network for specific information (column 9, Lines 6-8). Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that Duvvury merely discloses obtaining or learning specific information from devices on the network, but fails to disclose or suggest any interactively exchanged information relating to hardware ports between two console switches. This is in direct contrast to the features of "a first tuning button that exchanges first information relating to hardware ports included in the console switch with another console switch connected to the network, the other console switch having a second tuning button that exchanges second information relating to hardware ports included in the other console switch with the console switch; wherein when the first tuning button and the second tuning button are engaged, the first information and the second information are interactively exchanged between the console switch and the other console switch", as recited in amended claim 1 of the present application.

Further, neither AAPA, Nagarah, North, nor Gallagher cures this deficiency of Duvvury in regard to claim 1.

In order to form a proper §103 rejection, the cited references must disclose all of the features of the rejected claim. Therefore, since none of the cited references, taken either alone or together, disclose, suggest, nor even contemplate at least the features of claim 1 discussed above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

Independent claims 13, 16, 17, and 25 recite similar features to those discussed above in regard to claim 1, and which are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 13, 17, and 25 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Claims 2-7 and 9-11 depend from claim 1, claim 14 depends from claim 13, claims 18-22 depend from claim 17, and claims 26-30 depend from claim 25. These dependent claims include all of the features of the respective claims upon which they depend, plus additional features which are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-7, 9-11, 14, 18-22, and 26-30 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Summary

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 12, 24, and 32 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 9-11, 13, 16-17, and 25 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-14, 16-22, and 25-30 remain pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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